

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A lifting frame assembly for a hoist having a first end adapted to be attached to the hoist, the frame assembly including a guide raisable and lowerable with the frame assembly by the hoist when a load is to be lifted, a lift slide slidably mounted on said guide for movement along a central guide axis, a biasing member connected between the frame member and the lift slide resiliently loading the lift slide to move along the guide in a direction toward the first end of the frame assembly to a retracted position, a stop to limit the lift slide from moving relative to the guide in a direction away from its retracted position under gravity acting on a load carried by the lift slide when the frame assembly and the guide are lifted by the hoist, said lift slide comprising a load support frame having a generally horizontal leg with a substantially straight load support surface having a shape complimentary to a surface of a load to be lifted to receive and support the load when the load is oriented in a selected position for lifting, adapter members mounted on the load support frame comprising pivoting straps that

are mounted on portions of the load support frame and that are adapted to rest on the load support to provide a guide receptacle for holding the load substantially centered on the central guide axis of the guide, said pivoting straps are moveable to a load retaining position projecting above the load support surface, and have inclined surfaces extending upwardly from the load support surface at opposite ends of the load support surface and inclining in directions to form a load receiving pocket therebetween.

14. (Previously Presented) The lifting frame of claim 13, wherein the load support frame has an upright bar connected to the horizontal leg and wherein the pivoting straps comprise a first pivoting strap being pivoted to the upright bar, and a second pivoting strap being pivoted to the generally horizontal leg and wherein the second pivoting strap pivots to a load retaining position in opposite direction of rotation from the direction of rotation of the first pivoting strap toward its loading retaining position.

15. (Currently Amended) A load support for a hoist assembly comprising an elongated spreader bar having opposite ends, comprising a separate pivoting frame member at each of the opposite ends of the spreader bar that depends from a pivot connections to the respective ends of the spreader bar, each frame member including~~hoist assembly,~~ a guide member on the respective pivoting frame member, a lift slide mounted on the guide member for slidable movement relative thereto, the lift slide being adapted to lift a load carried thereon when the frame member and guide member are lifted, a biasing member between the frame member and the lift slide that resiliently resists extension of the lift slide from gravity on a load carried by the lift slide from a retracted position as the frame member and

guide member are raised, and a stop between the guide member and the lift slide to limit the amount of extension of the lift slide relative to the guide member, each frame member including a support member on the lift slide for supporting an elongated beam that extends between the frame members at opposite ends of the spreader bar, said support members being generally C-shaped to permit mounting a beam to be lifted with a center thereof substantially along a center axis of the lift slide of both frame members.

16. (Currently Amended) The load support of claim 15, wherein the lift slide extends through the guide member, ~~and a load support frame at a lower end of said lift slide, said load support frame being adapted to support a beam.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The load support of claim 16, wherein said biasing member urges the lift slide in a direction to maintain contact of the ~~load support frame~~members and a ~~load beam~~being ~~to be~~ lifted for a selected distance of extension of the lift slide.

18. (Currently Amended) The load support of claim 15, wherein ~~said each~~ guide member comprises a tubular sleeve, and the associated lift slide extends from the respective guide member as the lift slide moves as the guide member is lifted to raise a load carried by the lift slide, the lift slide carrying indicia that is exposed in the lift slide retracted position and which moves past a reference mark on the guide member as the lift slide extends from its retracted position.

19. (Original) The load support for a hoist assembly of claim 15, wherein said hoist assembly comprises a spreader bar that is elongated and has opposite ends, a separate frame member

pivotally mounted at opposite ends of the spreader bar, wherein each frame member includes a support member for supporting an elongated beam between the frame members at opposite ends of the spreader bar, said support members being generally C-shaped to permit mounting a beam to be lifted with a center thereof substantially along a center axis of the lift slide of both frame members.

20. (cancel)

21. (canceled)